

A WORLD WOMAN AMONG THE MINERS DESCRIBES HORRORS OF CHILD-SLAVERY

NO. III. OF THE SERIES.

BY OLIVIA HOWARD DUNBAR.

Puny Boys Driven to Toil by Pinching Hunger of the Family.

Sad Scenes in Miners' Homes—All Must Labor to Keep the Wolf from the Door.

This is the third of the series of articles, the first of which appeared in The Evening World last Saturday, from Miss Olivia Howard Dunbar, special commissioner in the great coal strike region, depicting the actual conditions there and the effect of the vast labor revolt on the miners in their home life. The first article was from Scranton. It graphically set forth the evils of child labor in the mines, and told of the desperate resolution, not only of the men, but of the wives and mothers. The second article, published yesterday, was from Pittston. It told of the cruelty of mine bosses to the white child slaves—the puny boys in the "breakers." To-day's article, from Wilkesbarre, describes other abuses and tellingly points out the real grievances which have caused the army of 150,000 miners to lay down their picks and shovels, grimly facing the terrors of starvation for themselves and their wives and little ones, rather than endure longer the condition of semi-starvation and absolute tyranny under which they have for years existed. Miss Dunbar's articles, dealing only with facts, taking no side in the controversy, and wholly devoid of hysterical exaggeration, promise to be the most noteworthy contributions from the strike region. They will be continued daily, and should be missed by no one interested in learning the true situation as the strike progresses. Tomorrow Miss Dunbar will write from Hazleton, the very center of the disturbed coal fields.

HUNGER ALWAYS IN MINERS' HOME.

(Special to The Evening World.)

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Sept. 18.—Even less in Wilkesbarre than in Scranton and Pittston is the real condition of the miners understood. Assurances made, probably in good faith, by the operators and comfortably placed citizens, who would no more dream of visiting a settlement than the ordinary New Yorkers would think of paying a series of calls on Hester street, are flatly contradicted by the miners themselves. Perhaps under the circumstances it would be even more surprising if an understanding did exist.

"What do the operators say?" "We decline to recognize the union; we have nothing to say; we have heard no complaints."

If you ask the miners why they have not made their grievances known they say:

TURN A DEAF EAR TO MINERS.

"We have tried, but they do not hear because they will not listen. And we have not been strong enough or sufficiently well organized or secure enough to compel their attention."

So here in Wilkesbarre I was told before visiting the miners: "There are no abuses here. True, there is the charge of \$2.75 for powder for which the company pays but 90 cents; but their families are not in need. The men are fairly treated by the officials and there are no company stores." Yet in the first miner's home I visited there was the familiar protest against the company stores. An extra charge, it appears, of from 25 per cent. to 33 per cent. is extorted by these concerns from the poor families, and the miners are so neatly trapped that there is no escape.

TOO MANY CHILDREN TO COUNT.

This family, which numbered too many children to count, happened to be American born. They lived in a shanty that ought to have been condemned years ago. Their two rooms had the customary furnishings of a stove and a box bed with a miscellany of scattered, unclassifiable remnants. The mother was clean and intelligent.

"The reason we are more badly off than the others," she explained, "with the low wages and the slack work and now the strike, is that the wages are just calculated to keep the foreigners—the Poles and Hungarians—alive. They can live on what we would starve on."

"What do you live on?" I asked her.

"Oh, bacon and bread and potatoes; and now and then when wages are better a bit of meat."

"Then what is it that the foreigners eat?"

"Scraps," she replied, laconically.

"But they are not contented. They have been anxious to strike, too."

SHARP WITS, BUT SQUALID HOMES.

"Of course they don't like paying for the powder any more than we do, and they don't like docked wages or working half time."

In spite of the squalor in which the miners live and their enforced remoteness from all the material and spiritual advantages of civilization, their literal struggle for existence has sharpened their native intelligence astonishingly.

I have yet to meet a stupid man, woman or child in the mining settlements. Perhaps the mine operators do not take this fact sufficiently into consideration. The miners are disposed to be fair minded and logical, too, and, above all, sternly loyal to their class.

This is shown by the attitude of the non-union men in Wilkesbarre. Those with whom I talked had apparently not even considered the possibility of not joining the strike. They are laying down their tools, now that the time has come, with the same relentless determination as those who are pledged to follow President Mitchell's directions.

TEMPTED BY THE MINE OWNERS.

But the directors of the mines, however lightly they may effect to consider the strike, are willing to make repeated overtures to these men in the

THE WHITE CHILD SLAVES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COAL MINES.

(Photographed by Miss Olivia Dunbar especially for The Evening World.)



This is a typical group of boys under legal age employed at the "Banyon" mine, Pittston, Pa., as workers on the "breakers." Several of the boys in this group are only eight years old. None is more than twelve. The Pennsylvania law prohibits the employment of children under fourteen. The drawn, prematurely old faces of these boys, some of whom look as old as men of middle age, tell the story of their cruel lives in the drudgery of the mines. It was a puny little fellow of this class that Supt. Harkness, of Pittston, brutally beat with a horsewhip yesterday, as told by Miss Dunbar's article in The Evening World.

PENNSYLVANIA LAWS PROHIBIT CHILD LABOR IN MINES.

To ascertain precisely what statutes of the laws of Pennsylvania are violated by the mine owners as alleged by the striking miners, The Evening World telegraphed requesting the Attorney-General of Pennsylvania to wire the sections bearing on the employment of child labor, the conduct of "company stores," &c. In the absence of Attorney-General Elkin, Chief Clerk Guy H. Davies telegraphed as follows:

HARRISBURG, Pa., Sept. 18.

"The Pennsylvania act of 1891 prohibits child labor in the mines as follows: 'No boy under the age of fourteen years and no woman or girl of any age shall be employed or permitted to be in any mine for the purpose of employment therein. Nor shall a boy under the age of twelve years, or a woman or girl of any age be employed or permitted to be in or about the outside structures or workings of a colliery for the purpose of employment; but it is provided, however, that this prohibition shall not affect the employment of a boy or female of suitable age in an office or in the performance of clerical work at a colliery.'

"That on and after the passage of this act it shall not be lawful for any mining or manufacturing corporation of this Commonwealth, or the officers or stockholders of any such corporation, acting in behalf or in the interest of

any such corporation, to engage in or carry on by direct or indirect means any store known as a company store, general supply store or store where goods and merchandise other than such as have been mined or manufactured by the mining or manufacturing corporation of which said officers or stockholders are members are kept or offered for sale.

"Section 2.—That no mining or manufacturing corporation engaged in business under the laws of this Commonwealth shall lease, grant, bargain or sell to any officer or stockholder of any such corporation, nor to any other person or persons whatsoever the right to keep or maintain upon the property of such corporation, any company general supply or other store in which goods other than those mined or manufactured by the corporation granting such right shall be kept or exposed for sale, whenever such lease, grant, bargain or sale as aforesaid is intended to defeat the provisions of the first section of this act. Nor shall any such mining or manufacturing corporation through its officers or stockholders or by any rule or regulation of its business make any contract with the keepers or owners of any store whereby the employees of such corporation shall be obliged to trade with such keeper or owner, and that any such contract made in violation of this act shall be prima facie evidence of the fact that such store is under the control of such mining or manufacturing corporation and in violation of this act."

GUY H. DAVIES, Chief Clerk.

"GRATEFULLY APPRECIATED."

(By Jerome F. Healy, Secretary of Typographical Union No. 6.)

Miss Dunbar's work in The Evening World is gratefully appreciated by all classes of workingmen, for what she has written bears the impress of truth, and all workingmen ask in a crisis of this kind is that the truth shall be spread before the public.

Jerome F. Healy
Secy Typo No 6

hope of inducing them to return to work. They know that this would excite the very violence that they dread, and that a man risks his life in interfering with the progress of a strike. A gray-haired non-union man had this to tell:

"My boss," he said, "has been after me three times in the last two days. 'Come back to work, John,' he says, 'and I will do something handsome for you.'"

"No, sir," I said, "I strike on Monday."

"Then, when we were finishing up work, he came again. 'Better come back, John,' he says. 'You'll be sure of good wages, you know.'"

HE WAS NON-UNION BUT LOYAL.

"I've been in the mines since I was a lad, sir," I told him, "and I've never been a damned blackleg yet, and I'm not going to begin now."

"Why aren't you in the union?" I asked. "Don't you approve of it?"

"It's a good thing," he said, eagerly, "a great thing; but I began work as a non-union man and haven't changed; that's all. I'm with them when a strike comes, and every non-union man here feels the same."

The little breaker boys in Wilkesbarre have just heard of Mr. Diller's scheme to take them to New York, and they are almost forgetting the strike in the excitement of it. Probably there is not one of them that has ever spent a day out of sight of the mines.

BOYS WHO NEVER LEAVE MINES.

The thought of a place where there is no coal to handle is more than their infant imaginations can encompass. They do not think of New York as a great pleasure place, because they do not know what a "good time" is.

They have dimly grasped it as a marvellous Utopia where there are wise, good people with the power to make them break coal at men's wages and to send all boys to school.

"Don't the boys in New York work?" asked a perplexed little fellow "How do they get anything to eat?"

5,000 PUNY BOYS TO MARCH.

It will not be a pleasant spectacle that is to be exhibited to the labor organizations of New York, but it will be impressive enough to deserve some result—five thousand undersized children, thin, weak, narrow-chested, with faces that have an habitual expression of hunger and anxiety. They have never had enough to eat or been sufficiently clothed or known a day of boyish freedom. And what to their weary, broken-spirited elders seems infinitely more important is that they are denied the education that is their right—a right taken from them by their present slavery.

JUST LIKE SWEATSHOP CHILDREN.

Their condition, in fact, is much like that of the sweatshop children of New York, little ground though there should be for a parallel between the most unwholesome regions of an over-crowded city and this wonderful mountain country, with its abundant natural beauty, pure air and the incredible

richness of its coal supply, which yields sufficient to keep the whole district comfortable and contented for a hundred years.

Plainly there is something wrong, but the strike is already on and the miners believe that the something is in the way to be righted.

OLIVIA HOWARD DUNBAR.

NOTE.—Do not fail to read Miss Dunbar's article from Hazleton, the very center of the strike region, in to-morrow's Evening World. She will write on "The Women Warriors of the Strike."

COAL MINES GUARDED BY MEN UNDER ARMS.

(Continued from First Page.)

busy at the outside workings, but not a ton of coal is being mined. Except for the West End Coal Company at Moccasin not a mine in the Wyoming or the Lackawanna district is producing coal to-day.

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TRUE PICTURES OF LIFE.

(By Harry White, General Secretary of the United Garment Workers of America.)

I have read Miss Dunbar's graphic description of the conditions prevailing among the coal miners and they tally exactly with the observations I recently made in the same region. It seems almost incredible that such a state of affairs in one of our wealthiest and fundamental industries should be permitted to continue. As an object lesson it shows to what state workingmen would be reduced did they not have some power of resistance. And yet we hear the employing class prate about their willingness to fairly remunerate the workers without the necessity of their organizing.

The revelations to the public made by these true pictures of life at the mines ought to arouse every person having a spark of humanity in his make up.

Harry White

TRUTH SHOULD BE KNOWN

(By James J. Cullen, General Secretary of Buffers, Platers and Brass Workers' International Union.)

These articles from the hand of a brave little woman strike deep into the heart. They are true. We who are in the work in behalf of labor know they are true, and The Evening World deserves great credit for exposing the situation to the people of America. The truth should be known. Then the people will see that right is done.

James J. Cullen
Gen. Secy

COAL STOCKS SPECULATORS HALT.

LONDON Stock Market Again Depressed, but Americans Were Steady.

Capitalized depression marked the London stock market today, the fears regarding the monetary outlook not having abated.

American railway shares were inclined to fluctuate at the opening, within a narrow margin, but later they displayed firmness.

THE COTTON MARKET.

The local cotton market to-day was steady at a decline.

The opening prices were: September, 10.20 to 10.27; October, 10.22 to 10.24; November, 9.90 to 9.99; December, 9.75 to 9.84; January, 9.70 to 9.71; February, 9.70 to 9.71; March, 9.71 to 9.72; May, 9.71 to 9.72; June, 9.72 to 9.74; July, 9.70 to 9.73.

OLD MAN A RIVER VICTIM.

An old man, fairly well dressed, wearing no coat, was found floating in the North River at Forty-third street to-day. He was of light complexion, had weighed about 170 pounds, and was 5 feet 8 inches in height.

A DAILY NUISANCE.

A Simple Remedy Which Will Interest Catarrh Sufferers.

In its earlier stages catarrh is more of a nuisance than a menace to the general health, but sooner or later the disease extends to the throat, bronchial tubes and even to the stomach and intestines.

Catarrh is essentially a disease of the mucous membrane, the local symptoms being a profuse discharge of mucus, stoppage of the nostrils, irritation in throat, causing coughing, sneezing, gagging and frequent clearings of the throat and head.

The usual treatment by local douches, sprays, salves and ointments gives temporary relief, but anything like a cure can only be obtained by a treatment which removes the catarrhal taint from the blood and the disappearance of the inflammation from the mucous surfaces.

A new remedy which meets these requirements and which so far has been remarkably successful in curing catarrh is Stuart's Catarrh Tablets.

These tablets act upon the blood and mucous membranes only. They can hardly be called a secret patent medicine, as they are composed of such valuable remedies as Sanguinaria, Hydrastis, Eucalypti and similar cleansing antiseptics, which cure by eliminating from the blood and mucous surfaces the catarrhal poison.

Stuart's Catarrh Tablets are large pleasant-tasting lozenges taken internally, allowing time to dissolve slowly in the mouth. In this way they reach the throat, trachea and the entire alimentary canal.

If desired, they may also be dissolved in water and used as a douche. In addition to the internal use, but it is not at all necessary to use a douche; a few of them dissolved in a mouthful of water will be sufficient.

However, when there is much stoppage of the nose, a douche made from these tablets will give immediate relief, but the regular daily use internally of these tablets will cure the whole catarrhal trouble without resorting to the inconvenience of a douche.

Dr. Bennett states that the internal treatment for catarrh is the regular use of the old plan of douching, and local application, and further says that probably the best, and certainly the safest remedy at present on the market is Stuart's Catarrh Tablets, as no secret is made of their composition and all the really effective remedies for catarrh are contained in this tablet.

Druggists sell Stuart's Catarrh Tablets at fifty cents for full-sized packages. Ask your druggist, and if he is honest he will tell you there is no safer, more palatable, more efficient and convenient remedy on the market.

Piles

No ointment; book free; 1,400 names; city references. By Wm. C. Miller, M.D. 254 E. 14th St. N. Y. City.

Help Wanted—Male.

PLASTER BATHS: first class; bring tools handy for work. 25 E. 14th St.